

N<sup>o</sup> 11

PAPISTS NO CHRISTIANS,  
Or, *ENGLAND* in DANGER.

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A  
S E R M O N  
ADDRESS'D TO ALL  
TRUE BRITONS  
AND  
FIRM PROTESTANTS,

On NOVEMBER the 5th, 1756.

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By the Rev. *MICHAEL FESTING*, A.M.  
Chaplain to the Right Honourable the EARL  
of *TANKERVILLE*,  
And Rector of WYKE-REGIS, near *Weymouth*, *Dorset*.

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*L O N D O N:*

Printed by H. WOODFALL,

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THE BRITISH

FIRM PROTESTANTS

On November the 30th 1750

By the Rev. MISHA R. M. O. N.

Chaplain to the King  
of GREAT BRITAIN

And Rector of Wyke Rectory, near Wymondley, Dorset



L O W D O N :

Printed by H. WOODWARD

And Sold by Messrs. J. and W. Wood, in Pall Mall, near the Theatre Royal;  
W. R. R. in Pall Mall, near the Theatre Royal; and S. R. R. at Dorset.

(Price SIX PENCE.)



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TO ALL  
MY WELL-BELOVED  
PARISHIONERS  
at *Wyke-Regis* and *Weymouth*.

**G**RACE be unto you, and *Peace* from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ! May every *Gospel-Blessing, temporal and spiritual*, be continually showered down upon you *All* from the *eternal Fountain* of *Favour* and *Goodness*!

'THOUGH I be now *absent* in the *Body*, yet am I *present* with you in the *Spirit*, ever *rejoicing* at the *Welfare* and *Prosperity* of any of you, and *sorrowing* at the *contrary*.

I CAN very safely lay my Hand on my Heart, and call the gracious God of Heaven and Earth, the *all-knowing* Searcher of Hearts, to *witness* that I never fail making mention of you *All* in my *daily* Prayers.

*Family-Illness* now *detains* me in this City; but to *shew* you that I am not *unmindful* of you, at *this distance*, I beg your *favourable Acceptance* of a Sermon, which I had, out of *Necessity*, *hastily provided for*, and *designed* to have *preached at*, St. James's Church.

I HOPE to God I shall never *preach any Doctrine*, but what I *myself firmly believe*, and *endeavour to practice*; and if this Sermon shall prove (as I trust it will) *scriptural* and *well-meant*, it will *fully answer* my Purpose.



God is my Judge, that neither the *Desire* of *Fame* nor *Money*, but the *Hopes* of doing some *little Service* to my *Countrymen*, and to you my *Parishioners* in particular, at this *critical* Juncture, was the *sole Motive* of my publishing this *plain* and *unrhetorical* Discourse; for, in my *humble* Opinion, nothing but the *daily Increase* of *Popery* and our own *unrepented Sins* can be our *Ruin*: And how dare we hope for *Mercy* and *Salvation*, for *present* and *temporal*, for *future* and *eternal* Blessings, as long as we give such *Encouragement* to the *Enemies* of our *King* and *Country* and the *Protestant Religion*, as long as we neglect not only the *indispensible* Duty of *Family-Devotion*, but even that of *Public-Worship*, and continue, knowingly and obstinately, in our *customary* and *favourite* Sins? How can we ever expect to be a *flourishing* and *happy* Nation, if we are not *fully resolved* and *determined*, *High* and *Low*, *Rich* and *Poor*, *Priest* and *People*, every one of us in our *several* Degrees and Stations of Life, to *live* and *act*, from this Time forward, as *Men*, as *Britons*, as *Christians*, and as *Protestants*?

It is an *invariable Maxim*, the *first* and *best Lesson* in *Politics*, and the *chief, useful Knowledge*, which we acquire by *studying* History, that “ *Righteousness* (or the “ *Practice of Piety and Virtue*) always *exalteth* a Nation, “ but that *Sin* (*Irreligion and Vice*) is a *Reproach* to any “ *People*,” and the *sure Cause*, sooner or later, of its *Decline* and *Destruction*.

“ LET them give Ear, therefore, that rule the People, “ and glory in the Multitude of Nations; for *Power* is “ given them of the *Lord*, and *Sovereignty* from the *Highest*, who shall try their *Works*, and search out their *Counsels*; because being *Ministers* of his kingdom, they are “ *appointed*, and ought, to judge aright, ought to keep the “ *Law themselves*, and walk after the *Counsel* of God;” and so be *illustrious Examples* of every Thing that is good and praise-



*praise-worthy* to their *Inferiors* : But if these *Ministers* of God's Kingdom do *not* " judge aright, nor keep the Law, " nor walk after the Counsel of God, *horribly* and *speedily* " shall he come upon them ; for a *sharp* Judgment shall " be to them that be in *high* Places ; for *Divine Mercy* " will soon PARDON the *meanest* ; but *mighty Men* shall be " *mightily* tormented ;" the *higher* their *Eminence* is, the greater and more dreadful will be their Downfal and Punishment. " He, which is Lord over *All*, shall fear no " Man's *Person*, neither shall he stand in *Awe* of any " Man's *Greatness* ; for he hath made the *small* and the " *great*, and careth for *All alike* ; but a sore Trial shall " come upon the *Mighty*," if they omit their *Duty* to their God, their *King*, and their *Country*.

" *Love Righteousness*, therefore, ye that *rule* the People " of this Land ; think of the Lord with a *good Heart*, and " in *Simplicity* of Heart seek him : " Let *Equity*, *Honesty* and *Mercy* be, *invariably*, the *Measures* and *Rules* of your *Conduct* and *Behaviour*, that ye fall not away, and occasion not the *Ruin* of *yourselves* and *us*.

AND do ye, I beseech and intreat you, O my Parishioners, whose *Happiness* I have deeply at Heart ; do ye " fear God and the King, and never meddle with them that " are given to *change*." Ever abhor, detest and discourage the *unchristian* and *damnable* Doctrines of *insinuating* and *enslaving Popery*, and adhere *immoveably* to the *Protestant Religion* and excellent *Church of England*, even unto *Death*.

May those, and those only, be ever approved of, desired and chosen by you, for your chief and leading Men, who are really good Men, who are firmly attached to the *Honestest* and *best* of *Kings*, our most gracious Sovereign Lord King GEORGE, and to the *Bosom-Interest* of dear Old England ; who do not despise and blasphemously ridicule the Lord Jesus Christ, but bravely glory in a crucified Saviour, and in the *Protestant Religion* ; and who, abhorring all low  
Ambition,

*Ambition, mean Corruption and selfish Views, are ever studious to promote your Good and Welfare, and who manifest the same by doing all in their Power to encourage Labour and Industry amongst you, especially Trade and Navigation (for which you are most commodiously situated and designed by Providence) and, above all, to make you a civilized, peaceable, honest and religious, as well as a prosperous, flourishing, and wealthy People!*

MAY Almighty God, the *wise and gracious Disposer* of all *Blessings*, now and ever more, *bear and grant the hearty and fervent Prayer* of your *loving* (and, I flatter myself, *beloved*) Minister and Servant in Christ Jesus,

MICHAEL FESTING! *Amen!*

BEAUFORT-BUILDINGS, *Strand,*  
*London, Nov. 23, 1756.*

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LUKE IX, ver. 55, and former Part  
of the 56th Verse.

*But he turned and rebuked them, and  
said, ye know not what manner of  
Spirit ye are of; for the Son of Man  
is not come to destroy Mens Lives,  
but to save them:—*

**I**T came to pass (as the *Evangelist*, or *inspired  
Gospel-writer*, informs us) that, when the  
Time was come, when the Days were ac-  
complished, that *Jesus* should be *received up into  
Heaven*, he, then, *stedfastly set his Face*, to go to  
*Jerusalem*: *Notwithstanding* he perfectly well knew  
*before-hand*, that the Chief-Priests and the Scribes,  
and the Elders of the People of the *Jews* would  
condemn him to *Death*, and deliver him up to the  
*Gentiles*, even to *Pontius Pilate* and the *Roman  
Soldiers*, to *mock*, and to *scourge*, and to *crucify*  
B him ;



him ; although he *foreknew* that he should be *barbarously treated*, should be *crowned with acute and piercing Thorns*, be *spit on, struck, jeered and insulted*, and, at length, *crucified between two notorious Malefactors* ; yet was he *fully resolved to die couragiously*, to be *patient and resigned*, and *obedient unto Death*, even the *painful and ignominious Death of the Cross*.

As he had been the *blest Author*, so was he *determined to be the Finisher of our Faith*, the *glorious Captain of our Salvation* ; and, therefore, for the *Joy* that was set before him,—for the *Honour of God*, for the *Cause of Truth and Religion*, and for the *Welfare and Happiness of Mankind*, of which he had a *pleasing and joyful Prospect in View*,—He was *prepared to endure the Torments of the Cross, despising the Shame* ; and, accordingly, he *settled himself*, and was *fully bent to go to Jerusalem, that infamous Slaughter-house of God's Prophets, and future Scene of his own bloody Execution* ; and he sent *Messengers* before him, who went and *entred into a Village of the Samaritans*, in order to *prepare him a Lodging, or fit Place of Reception* ; but the *Samaritans* would *not receive him, because his Behaviour* was, as though he would go on to *Jerusalem, which Place, and its Inhabitants, they hated*, on account of some *religious Disagreements*

ments and *Disputes* ; and when his *Disciples*, *James* and *John*, saw this *uncivil* Treatment of the *Samaritans*, they said,—“ Lord, wilt thou  
 “ that we, this instant, *command Fire* to come  
 “ down from Heaven, and *consume* these *Ene-*  
 “ *mies* of ours, these *inhospitable* Persons, even  
 “ as the Prophet *Elijah* the *Tishbite* called  
 “ down Fire from Heaven on the *mocking* and  
 “ *insolent Messengers* of the idolatrous *Abaziah*  
 “ King of *Samaria* ?” But *Jesus*, the *meek*,  
 gentle and *merciful Saviour* of a *perishing* World,  
 turned about, and *rebuked* his *Disciples*, and said  
 —“ Ye know not *what* manner of *Spirit* ye  
 “ are of ; ye know not the *true Genius* and  
 “ *Spirit* of *my Religion* ; ye know not *how* to  
 “ behave as you *ought*, *how* to *demean* your-  
 “ selves as *becometh my Disciples, Followers* and  
 “ *Imitators* of *me* your *Lord* and *Master* ; for,  
 “ if you *did*, you would have known, that the  
 “ *Son of Man*, the *Messiah*, is *not* come from  
 “ God into this World to *destroy Mens Lives*,  
 “ but to *save* them.”

*These Words* are, I presume you will *allow*,  
 as *plain* and *intelligible* as Words *can* be, and,  
 therefore I shall take occasion from thence to  
 prove to you, that *Papists*, even *all* such as do  
*strictly* and *fully* *adhere* to the *Doctrines* and *Te-*  
*nets* of the *Romish Church*, are *not* *genuine* and



*sound Disciples of the meek and merciful Saviour of Mankind, are no true Christians ; and I shall enquire likewise what the true Genius and Spirit of Christianity is, and what manner of Spirit we ought to be of, who profess the pure and undefiled Religion of the holy and beneficent Jesus, and protest against the Errors, and sinful Doctrines of the Church of Rome.*

IN the *first* place then we will begin with this *important Enquiry*, namely *what the true Genius or Spirit of Christ's Religion is ; and what manner of Spirit we ought to be of, who call ourselves Christians and Protestants ; and to whom should we go for a plain and full Answer to this grand Question, but to that Divine Person himself, that unerring and infallible Teacher Jesus Christ, who hath the Words of eternal Life, and also to his Apostles, who were his immediate and faithful Embassadors ? It is in the New Testament alone that we can hope to find the true and just Account of this Enquiry. The New Testament alone contains all those Credenda and Agenda, all those Things which are necessary to be believed and done by every Christian, in order to his eternal Salvation ; and whosoever believes the Articles of Faith, and practises the Precepts and Duties of Life, therein intelligibly laid down, is justly denominated*  
*a true*



a true Christian, and will, at the *last great Day*, be known, or acknowledged as such, by our Lord and Judge, *Jesus Christ* : And, according to the excellent Apostle *St. Paul*, this is the full and comprehensive, tho' short, *Definition*, or *Description*, of *Christianity*,—" The Grace (or free Favour and Mercy) of God, that bringeth (or offereth) Salvation unto all Men, hath appeared (in the Gospel of *Jesus Christ*) teaching us (as the only sure way in which it brings Salvation) that denying *Ungodliness* and worldly Lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present World, ever looking, (with the Eye of Faith) for that blessed Hope (or Promise of Blessedness) and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour *Jesus Christ*, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all Iniquity, that he might save and deliver us from the Dominion and Punishment of Sin, and might purify unto himself a peculiar People, zealous of good Works."

Such is the Nature of *Christ's Religion*, which is evidently calculated and designed to make its Professors wise unto Salvation, good and happy. It plainly teaches us, we find, that the gracious Favour and Mercy of God, the full Pardon of all our past Sins, and a future Inheritance of  
ever-

everlasting Glory and Happiness, all depend, thro' the Merits of Jesus Christ, on our observing, and complying with, these manifest Terms of Salvation, these intelligible Conditions of the Gospel, namely the denying and renouncing Ungodliness, all Impiety, Infidelity and Irreligion, and the bidding adieu to all worldly Lusts, to the Lust of the Flesh, Sensuality and Intemperance, and to the Lust of the Eyes, Envy, Covetousness, vain Curiosity and the like, and to the Pride of Life, Ambition, vain Glory and Arrogance; and not only the forsaking all these Vices, but the practising the contrary Virtues by living soberly and temperately with regard to ourselves, righteously, equitably, mercifully and charitably with respect to our Neighbour, or Fellow-creature, and godly, piously and devoutly with respect to our Maker, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

AGAIN, St. James's Definition, or Description, of the Christian's true Religion is as follows,—  
 “ Pure Religion and undefiled before God, even  
 “ the Father, is *this*,—to visit the Fatherless and  
 “ Widows in their Affliction, and to keep him-  
 “ self unspotted from the World, i. e. in other  
 “ Words, to do his Duty to his Neighbour, or  
 “ Fellow-creature, and also to his God.

AND



AND *Jesus Christ*, the *Word of Truth*, hath himself thus taught us—" *This is Life eternal* " to know thee, the only true God, and *Jesus Christ*, whom thou hast sent."—*This is the saving Doctrine of Christianity*, to know, i. e. to believe and obey thee, the only true God, and *Jesus Christ*, thine only begotten and beloved Son, whom thou hast sent into the World to instruct and redeem Mankind.

IF, says he to his *Disciples*, in all Ages, " If ye keep my *Commandments*, ye shall abide in my Love. This is my *Commandment*, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater Love hath no Man than this, that a Man lay down his Life for his Friend. Ye are, in effect, my *Friends*, if ye do whatsoever I command you. A new *Commandment*," (a *Commandment* to be daily renewed and enforced and obeyed) " I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another: By this shall all Men know that ye are my *Disciples*, if ye have Love one to another." This mutual Love will be the true *Badge* of your *Discipleship*, the sure *Mark* and *Proof* of your being true and faithful *Disciples*, and *Friends* of mine; which Passage, no doubt, *St. Paul* had in mind, when he said to the *Thessalonians*,—  
" But



“ But as touching *brotherly Love*, ye need not  
 “ that I write unto you, for *ye yourselves* are  
 “ *taught of God to love one another.*”

SEEING now *what manner of Persons we*  
*Christians* ought to be in all *holy Conversation*  
 and *Godliness* and *brotherly Love*, let us, *next*,  
 enquire into the *Genius* and *Spirit of Christia-*  
*nity.*

He, who went about doing good, who industri-  
 ously sought out all *Occasions* of doing good both  
 to the *Souls* and *Bodies* of Men; he, who loved  
 not his *Life* unto the *Death*, who esteemed the  
*Honour* of God, the *Cause* of Religion and *Truth*  
 and the *Good* of Mankind, far more precious than  
 his own *Life*, hath assured us, that he “ came  
 “ into this World not to destroy Mens Lives,  
 “ but to save them.” He hath assured us, that  
 he came forth from God, and was anointed, on  
 purpose to preach the Gospel to the poor in Spirit,  
 to publish the glad Tidings of Salvation to the  
 meek and humble; on purpose to heal the broken-  
 hearted, the contrite and penitent;—to preach  
*Deliverance* to the *Captives*, *Freedom* to the *Jews*  
*in Bondage* to the *Mosaic Law*, and to the *Hea-*  
*thens*, who were *Slaves* to *Idolatry*; and also  
 the *Recovery* of *Sight* to the *Blind*, true saving  
*Wisdom* and *Knowledge* to the *Ignorant*; and,  
 withal, to set at liberty them that were bruised,  
 that

that had been *oppressed* by the *Wiles* and *Domination* of *Sin* and *Satan*; and, *lastly*, to preach the *acceptable* Year of the Lord; to publish, in the *Fulness* of God's good Time, a *general Jubilee*, or *uninterrupted* Season of *Freedom*, *Festivity* and *Love*.

THE same blessed *Jesus* hath assured us, that as *Moses* *lifted* up the brazen Serpent on a Pole, in the Wilderness, in order that all those, who had been *bitten* by *fiery Serpents*, and *looked up* on it, might be *recovered* and *live*; even so it became *him*, the Son of Man, the Messiah, to be *lifted up* on a *Tree*, or *Cross*, in order that whosoever *looketh up* on, and *believeth* in him, as a *crucified Saviour* and *Redeemer*, should *not perish* in their *Sins*, but *repent* and *reform*, and *have eternal Life*, *inherit* and *enjoy* an *Immortality* of *Glory* and *Happiness*; for, as he *proceeds*, "God *so loved the World*," so *intensely* loved Mankind, that he *gave* his only-begotten Son, *freely* gave the Son of his Bosom, to the *Intent* that whosoever *believeth* in him, hath the *true operative Faith*, *productive* of good Works, should *not perish* but *have*, *lay hold on* and *enjoy*, *everlasting Life*: for God sent not his Son into the World, (as he *justly* might have done) to *condemn* the World, but sent him in order that the World through him might be *saved*; which is as much



as to say, that *Christ Jesus* was not sent, nor did he come into the World to take *Vengeance* on, and destroy, Mankind, but to save them, to save them not only from the reigning Power of Sin, but also from the *Wrath* to come; not only to teach them the right and direct Way to Heaven, but to go before them, and prepare a Place in his Father's blessed Mansions, that where he, now, is, there they also may, hereafter, be.

THUS 'tis evident from the Gospel, that infallible Word of Truth, by which we must, now, regulate our Faith or Belief, and our Words and Actions, and by which, hereafter, we shall be tried, and must stand or fall, at the great Day of Judgment; it is manifest, I say, from the Gospel, that *Jesus Christ* came upon Earth, not to be a Destroyer of Mens Bodies and Souls, but a Preserver and Deliverer of both; and, consequently, the End and Design of that Religion, which he himself preached and propagated, even at the Expence of his own precious Blood, must be to unite Mankind in the Bond of Peace or brotherly Love, and not to set them at variance with each other; must be to save Life, and not to kill; it not being the Will of his heavenly Father (who is the Author of Peace and not of Confusion) that even one of the least, or meanest, of Mankind should perish. Wherefore St. James hath



hath not only advised us to be "*swift to hear,*  
 "*and slow to speak,* but also to be *slow to*  
 "*Wrath,*" for, says he, "*the Wrath of Men*  
 "*worketh not the Righteousness of God.*"

THE *passionate and persecuting Spirit* of re-  
 vengeful and bigotted Men doth not promote, and  
 do Service to, the Honor of God and the Cause  
 of Christ's Religion, but produces a quite con-  
 trary Effect; for it makes Men judge ill of,  
 despise and oppose, both Jesus Christ and his  
 Gospel, whilst they behold some of the Professors  
 of Christianity, not only disputing and quarrel-  
 ling, and evil-treating one another, on account  
 of Words and meer Matters of Opinion and In-  
 difference, but even thirsting after Blood, ana-  
 thematising, and damning, i. e. consigning over to  
 the Vengeance of everlasting Fire, all those who  
 dissent from them in Articles of Faith and Doc-  
 trines of Religion, which they have either cor-  
 rupted and adulterated, or which are not to be  
 found in the sacred Writings of the New-Testa-  
 ment; never considering that "*he shall have*  
 "*Judgment without Mercy,* who hath shewed no  
 "*Mercy;*" and that Jesus Christ himself hath  
 expressly declared, in Words which cannot be  
 misunderstood, that "*He came*" (from Heaven  
 into this World) "*not to destroy Mens Lives,*  
 "*but to save them.*"

SHALL we then, *Protestant Brethren*, esteem them of the *Romish Church*, *adopted Children of God* and *true Disciples and Friends of Jesus Christ*, who presume to “*command and \* make* “*Fire (or Vengeance)* to come down from Heaven on the Earth,” to *consume* all such as are *not Members of their Church*; and who, with *Christian Moderation*, *protest* against their *destructive Errors, Delusions and Impositions*; and whom they, *therefore*, brand with the *ignominious Title of Heretics*?

SHALL we call *them Christians*, who *aet so unlike Jesus Christ*, and instead of *saving Mens Lives* are ever *plotting and contriving to destroy* them; who take a *Pleasure and Delight* in, and make a *Merit of, burning, and putting to the Sword*, all those, whom *they call Heretics*, and *deem their Foes*?

How *amazingly and fully* is the following *Prophecy verified* by the *Spirit or Behaviour* of that *Body of Papists*, in *particular*, which accounts itself *peculiarly holy* unto thee, O blessed *Jesu*, thou *lowly and compassionate Lover and Preserver* of Mankind, and which calls itself after *thy Name*,—“*They shall put you out of the* “*Synagogues,*” (or *Places of Divine Worship*, shall *excommunicate* you) yea, “*the Time com-* “*eth that whosoever killeth you, will think that*

\* See Rev. xiii. 13.

“ he



“ he doth *God service* ; and these Things will  
 “ they do unto you, *bccaufe* they have *not known*  
 “ the *Father* nor *me*,” because they have not  
*rightly understood* the *true Genius* or *Spirit* ei-  
 ther of *natural* or *revealed* Religion.

HATH not, I would fain ask you, O *English-*  
*men* and *Protestants*, hath not *this remarkable*  
*Prophecy* of our Lord's been *already*, in the  
*Days of Old*, *too fatally fulfilled*, and is it not  
*still fulfilling*, in *these our Days*, in the Persons  
 of the *restless* and *ambitious* Enemies to our  
*Church* and *State*, the *Papists*, who under the  
*specious* but *ill-grounded* Pretence of *extirpating*  
 and *ridding the World* of *Heretics*, and *thereby*,  
 doing *Service* to *God* and *Christianity*, have,  
 like *savage* and *blood-thirsty* Brutes, *massacred*  
 Thousands of *pious* and *good* Men and Women  
 and *innocent* Children, at *Paris*, in *England*, in  
*Ireland* and *other* Parts of the World, not to  
 mention *Mexico*, on purpose to *enrich* the *Pon-*  
*tiff* and *themselves*, on purpose to *aggrandize*  
 the *Fame* and *Character* of the *ambitious* Whore  
 of *Babylon*, (already too *drunken* with the *Blood*  
 of the *Saints* and with the *Blood* of the *Martyrs*  
 of *Jesus*) and in order to *extend* their *own Power*  
 throughout the Face of the *whole* Earth ? Are  
 not the *Descendants* of those *inhuman* and *bar-*  
*barous* Men (*Christians*, we cannot properly, and  
 in



in a true *Scripture-sense*, call them) are not *they* too ever *obliged*, by their *false Religion*, to keep our *Ruin* constantly in their Eye? Are not *they*, at this very *Instant*, *meditating* and *scheming* the *total Subversion* of our *Religion* and *Government*, the *entire Downfal* and *Destruction* of the *best* of *Churches*, the *best* of *Kings* and the *best* of *States*? Why else is *this Metropolis*, and the *several Counties*, of these *Kingdoms*, so thronged with *Papists* and with *Romish Priests* of every *Order* and *Degree*? If they have not *cherished Hopes* of *re-kindling* their *religious Bonfires* at *Smithfield* and other *Places*, and of *re-establishing* their *adulterated* and *unchristian Religion* among us, and above all, of *re-possessing* the *long-and-much-wished-for Church-lands* of these *Kingdoms*. I hope *we*, *Brethren*, who stile ourselves *Protestants*, from *protesting* against the *Errors* and *damnable Doctrines* of the *Romish Church*, know *what* manner of *Spirit* we *are* of, or *ought to be*; know that *we*, like our blessed Redeemer *Jesus Christ*, are born and come into the *World*, not to *destroy* *Mens Lives*, but to *save* them, and to *do* all the *Good* we possibly can, to our *Fellow-creatures*.

God forbid therefore that *we* should ever *persecute* any of the *Members* of the *deluded* and *deluding Church* of *Rome*, on account of their  
*Religion :*

*Religion* : nay 'tis well-known, and they must needs *acknowledge* it, that we do *not*, but that they are *permitted*, here in *England*, to enjoy their Religion, *uninterrupted*, in *Peace* and *Quiet*. But yet surely it is highly *unreasonable* (if we any longer *value* the *valuable* Blessings of *Protestantism* and *Sweets of Liberty*, if we any longer regard the *Lives* of our *most* gracious *Sovereign* and his *Royal Family*, and of our *Protestant Brethren*, and *Relations*, and our *own selves*) 'tis then *highly unreasonable*, *impolitic*, *imprudent* and *unsafe* to *permit* such Numbers of *French Papists* to *absent* themselves, any longer, from their *own Country*, to *reside* here in these Kingdoms, at the *very Time*, we are *at War* with them, and like *Locusts*, devour the *scarce Fruits* of this Land; since the *chief Business* and *Labour* of their *Lives* is, as they term it, to gain *Converts* and *Profelytes*, to their Church, or in *other* and *plain Words*, to *bribe*, *inveigle* and *pervert* our *common* and *unwary* People, as they do in *this great* and *populous City* and in *several*, if not *all*, the *Counties* of this Kingdom; for it is an *incontestible Truth*, that *Popery* is always, in the *full Latitude* and *Acceptation* of the Word, the *same Mystery of Iniquity*, ever *fraught* with *Deceit*, *Superstition*, *Cruelty* and *Bigotry*, i. e. with *Zeal* which is *not according to*  
Know-



*Knowledge, but contrary to the true Genius and Spirit of Christianity as preached forth, practised and recommended by Jesus Christ himself, the beloved and only-begotten Son of God, the meek and beneficent Prince of Life, Peace and Love.*

*Popery is always the same, either thundering out Anathemas and bitter Curses, breathing out Threatenings and Slaughter and Damnation against the true Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, or else secretly meditating, plotting and contriving the Destruction, or Slavery of free-born Britons and charitable Protestants; and were our haughty and aspiring, complaisant and deceitful Enemies the French to invade these Kingdoms and make any successful Progress herein (which God Almighty avert!) then, assure yourselves, those very Papists, whom Luxury hath introduced amongst us; to our great Shame and Disgrace, would be the first, not to save, the Lives of their Protestant Masters and Mistresses and Benefactors, but to destroy them; being taught by their antichristian Church, that no Faith is to be kept with Heretics, or Gratitude shewn to them, and that by ridding the World of such, they shall infallibly merit Heaven. No such Persons therefore, who are of so treacherous, deceitful, unchristian, inhuman, and savage a Spirit ought to be trusted and encouraged by*  
us;

us; and whoever does encourage them is confessedly, an *Enemy to England* and its establishment, an *Enemy to the Protestant Religion* and to our most worthy *King*, whom, let us pray God, to preserve, and long continue, as he is, a *Blessing* to us all.

Who, where is the *Englishman* and *Protestant* amongst us, that hath the least Degree of *Sensibility* or *Feeling*, and can forbear shedding *Tears*, or *shuddering*, whilst he attentively reads over the *History* of the bigotted and bloody *Queen Mary's Reign*, in which the *Professors* of the *Protestant Religion* were most violently persecuted, particularly by *Gardiner Bishop of Winchester*, and *Bonner Bishop of London*, who distinguished themselves by the most notorious *Cruelties*, and a *Fury*, unbecoming not only *Bishops*, *Clergymen* and *Christians*, but even the most rude and barbarous *Cannibals*?

IN one Year not fewer than sixty-seven Persons were burnt alive; amongst whom were four *Bishops*, and thirteen other *Ministers* of the *Church of England*, Men renowned for *Learning*, *Piety*, *Charity* and every christian *Virtue*, Men full of the true Spirit of *Christianity*; and in the two following Years some *Hundreds* suffered; Men, Women, and even innocent *Infants* were committed, in *Troops*, to the *Flames*: And it

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has



has been affirmed, that the *bad Queen* and her *inhuman Ministers* (enraged at the Growth of the reformed Religion, notwithstanding all their cruel Persecution and Severities) had fully designed to erect an *Inquisition* in England, upon the Model of that in Spain; but the merciful God of Heaven and Earth was pleased to frustrate their *hellish Design*, by providentially cutting short a Life of Iniquity and Barbarity, a Reign, in which this infamous Queen had behaved like an Instrument of *Abaddon* or *Apollyon*, the Destroyer of Mankind, and not as a *Nursing-mother* of the Church of Jesus Christ and a *Vice-gerent* of the most Highest, that Lover and Preserver of Souls, whose darling Attribute is Mercy or Goodness, and who is Love itself.

CAN we now, Protestant Brethren, consistently with Sense and Reason, consistently with the true Genius and Spirit of Christ's Religion, consistently with one of the plainest and most intelligible Texts in Scripture, account the Abettors and Professors of Popery sound Members of Christ's holy catholic Church, true Disciples, and faithful Imitators and Friends of that blessed and infallible Person, who hath expressly declared that he came not to destroy Mens Lives but to save them; and who hath laid this Injunction

on all *his* Disciples,—“ Whatsoever *ye* would (whatsoever *you* have *Reason* to expect) “ that “ Men should do unto *you*; *that* do unto “ *them* ;” and never the contrary ?

HAD the *Romanists* a right Notion of God and his *Attributes* or *Perfections*, did they know God and the Lord *Jesus Christ*, the true *Nature* or *Spirit* of his Religion ; did they believe that “ God hath appointed a Day, in the which “ he will judge the World in *Righteousness*, by “ that blessed Person whom he hath ordained ; “ whereof he hath given *Assurance* unto all “ Men, in that he hath raised him from the “ *Dead* ;” did the *Papists* really believe that “ then the Lord *Jesus* shall be revealed from “ Heaven with his mighty Angels, in flaming “ *Fire*, taking *Vengeance* on all them that have “ not known God and have not obey’d the Go- “ spel of our Lord *Jesus Christ*, and that then all *Workers* of *Iniquity*, all uncharitable and unmerciful, and, more especially, all blood-thirsty and cruel Persons, “ shall be punished with “ everlasting *Destruction* from the Presence of “ the Lord and from the *Glory* of his *Power* ;” and had they a right, true, christian Spirit within them, they would not still continue to preach up the *Necessity*, the *Expediency*, the *Advantage*, and *spiritual Good* of *Inquisitions* and *Racks*,



*Sword and Fire* ; they would not presume, surely, to *propose* and *enforce*, as they do, *bodily Persecution* and *Violence* as *proper* and *convincing Arguments*, recommended by *Jesus Christ* and his *Apostles*, in order to *prevail* on Men to *come* into *his Church*, and to *profess his Religion*, or rather, to *come* into the *Church of Rome*, and to *profess their adulterated Religion* : We should not have had so just an *Occasion* to *complain* of, *condemn*, and *transmit* to *latest Posterity*, the *horrid* and *tragical Plot* of their *Ancestors*, who, about *this Time* of the Year, *wickedly* and *maliciously* *conspired* to *destroy*, by *Gun-powder*, his gracious Majesty King JAMES the *First*, the *Queen*, the *Prince*, and *all* the *Royal Branches*, with the *Nobility*, *Clergy*, and *Commons* of *England*, then assembled in *Parliament*. But *blessed*, *lauded* and *magnified* be *God*, *Almighty*, and *All-wise* and *All-good* ! for he *happily* *delivered* the *King* and the *three Estates* of *England*, who were appointed, by the *Papists* (and *Jesuits* in *particular*) as *Sheep* to the *Slaughter* ; and he *miraculously* *snatched* them from that *most deep laid*, *traiterous* and *bloody*, *intended*, *Massacre*.

So long as the *Church* of *England* *stands*, so long as the *Protestant Religion* continues to be *professed* and *exercised* in the *British Dominions*, (as *God* grant it *always* may !) and so long as *Po-  
pery*

pery shall still rear its ambitious, bloody, and unchristian Head ; so long, O Protestant Brethren, let us hope, and most fervently pray, that this Festival, or Thanksgiving-Day (which the Papists detest and disavow, and have, hitherto, in vain, wished to have abolished, and erased out of our Calendar) may be continued, and religiously celebrated, by all zealously-affected Members of our Church, in grateful Memory not only of the afore-mentioned, providential Deliverance, but also of the happy Arrival of King WILLIAM ; happy indeed for us, for the Deliverance of our Church and Nation, for the Preservation of our Religion and Liberties, from Popish Tyranny, and the arbitrary Power of the same implacable, cruel and blood-thirsty Enemies, the unchristian and inhuman Romanists.

“ AND now, O Almighty God, thou gracious  
 “ and eternal Spirit of Peace and Love, thou  
 “ Father of Mercies, and God of all Comfort and  
 “ Consolation, our only sure Help in Time of  
 “ Need, Adversity and Calamity, we most hum-  
 “ bly and earnestly pray, that the devout Sense  
 “ of these and all other thy repeated Mercies,  
 “ may renew and increase in us, a Spirit of  
 “ Love and Thankfulness to thee, the only Au-  
 “ thor thereof,—a Spirit of peaceable Submission  
 “ and Obedience to our emphatically gracious, ge-  
 “ nerous



“ *nerous and merciful, Sovereign Lord King*  
 “ *GEORGE, the solicitous and affectionate Father*  
 “ *of his loving People,—and a Spirit of fer-*  
 “ *vent Zeal for our holy Religion, which thou*  
 “ *hast so wonderfully rescued and establiſhed a*  
 “ *Blessing to us and to our Posterity, as we*  
 “ *hope, beg and pray for his ſake and Merits,*  
 “ *who came not to deſtroy Mens Lives, but to*  
 “ *ſave them,” and to whom with thee, O Fa-*  
 “ *ther, and the Holy Ghoſt, be aſcribed, as is moſt*  
 “ *due, all poſſible Honour and Praise, Might,*  
 “ *Majeſty and Dominion, now and for ever.”*  
 Amen, ſo be it.

F I N I S.



